



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Man Sentenced for Pandering 15-year old Girl in Washington, D.C.

Washington D.C. - Kenneth E. Tucker, 33, formerly of Silver Spring, Maryland was sentenced today to 12 months incarceration for pandering a 15 year-old girl in Washington D.C. earlier this year, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced. Tucker pled guilty to one count of pandering on April 6, 2010.

Evidence introduced at the plea hearing showed that on March 16, 2009, the Defendant approached the 15 year-old victim outside the Silver Spring Metro station and convinced her to come to his apartment nearby. There, the Defendant had sex with the victim and encouraged her to work as a prostitute, and to share her earnings with him in exchange for housing and physical protection that the Defendant offered to provide.

On March 17, 2009, the Defendant drove the victim to the 400 block of K Street, N.W., in Washington, D.C. At that time, the victim met with an undercover police officer and agreed to engage in acts of prostitution. The victim was placed under arrest for solicitation. While the victim was in police custody, the Defendant approached the officers and stated that the victim was with him. The Defendant also asked the police to give him the victim's cellular phone, which he claimed belonged to him. The victim told the police that the Defendant was her "pimp." Tucker was placed under arrest for Pandering and has remained incarcerated pending final disposition of the case.

While imposing the sentence today, the Honorable Ronna Beck found that a period of incarceration was warranted for the offense. Tucker had faced a possible maximum sentence under the statute of 5 years in prison and 5 to 20 months in prison under the Superior Court Voluntary Sentencing guidelines. Upon his release from prison following the completion of the sentence imposed today, Tucker must register under the Sex Offender Registration Act for a period of 10 years.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of Detective Jonathan

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Andrews of the FBI/MPD Human Trafficking Task Force, and MPD Officers Roy Melvin and Andrea Harris. The U.S. Attorney also commended the work of Victim Advocate Tracey Hawkins and Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Ditzler, who prosecuted the case.

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